

Waller Creek District

Bond Development 2012:
Bond Election Advisory Task Force

Presentation Overview:

1. Background information
2. Coordination and Partnership
3. Summary of Waller Creek District Capital Improvement Projects

WALLER CREEK DISTRICT – Background Information

- Flood control tunnel:
 - Removes 28 acres of land in eastern portion of Downtown Austin from the 100-year floodplain.
 - Provides framework for future investment.
 - Inlet and tunnel under construction, outlet pending, completion anticipated late 2014.
 - Financed primarily through joint City of Austin/Travis County Tax Increment Financing District (TIF).

WALLER CREEK DISTRICT – Coordination and Partnership

- Waller Creek District projects are a collection of inter-related and coordinated projects.


- Includes coordinated effort among several City departments, including:

- PARD
- Planning & Development Review (PDR)
- Austin Transportation Department (ATD)
- Watershed Protection (WPD)
- Public Works (PWD), and
- Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services (EGRSO)

WALLER CREEK DISTRICT – Coordination and Partnership

Waller Creek Conservancy:

- Created 2011.
- Partnered with City of Austin to design, fund, implement, and manage Waller Creek District improvements.
- Currently conducting “Design Waller Creek,” an international design competition, completion late fall 2012.



Proposed Waller Creek District Improvements

Four Categories of
Improvement Projects

Categories of Improvement Projects:

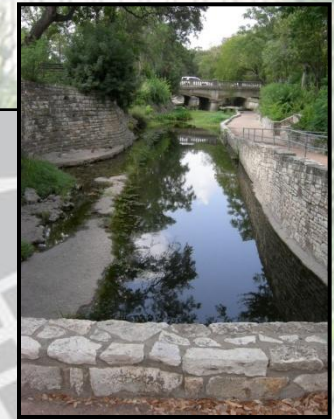
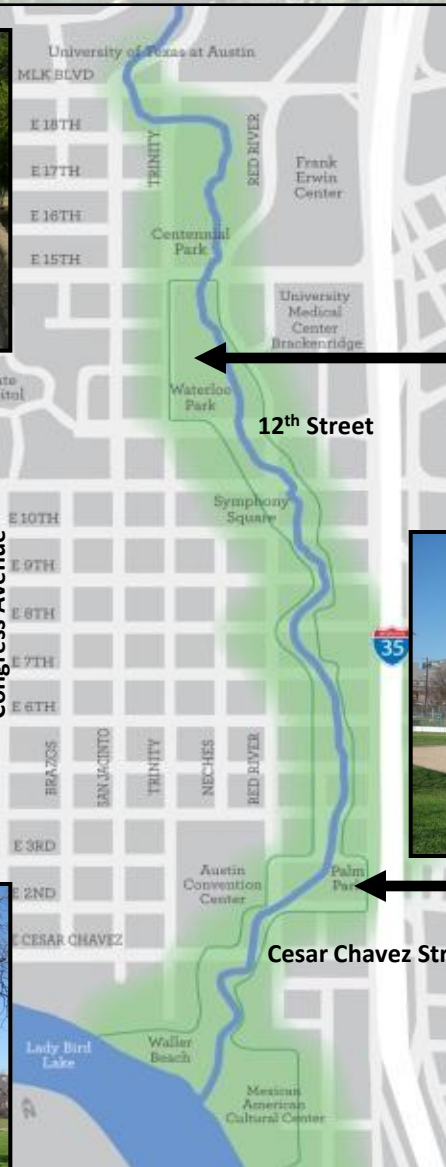
1. **Park Improvements (\$3,000,000)**
2. **Creek and Trail Improvements (\$40,500,000)**
3. **Mobility Improvements (\$8,800,000)**
4. **Streetscape Improvements(\$10,700,000)**

Total: \$63,000,000

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Waller Creek District Improvements

Four Categories of Improvement Projects



Waterloo Park



Palm Park



CREEK AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Waller Creek District Improvements

Four Categories of Improvement Projects



Creek Improvements:

- Erosion repair and bank stabilization.
- Stormwater and other infrastructure improvements.
- Environmental restoration.

Trail Improvements:

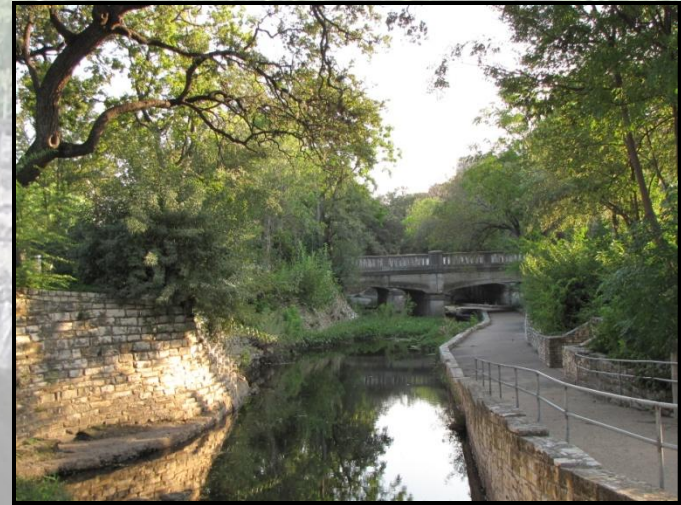
- Improve existing trails, and construct new trails where necessary, along approximately 5,400' of the creek.
- ADA compliant improvements.

CREEK AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Photos of existing conditions



Near 3rd Street Bridge



Near Waterloo Park



Between 6th and 7th Street



Between 3rd and 4th Street

CREEK AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Examples of Sustainable Streambank Solutions

Examples of Trail Improvements

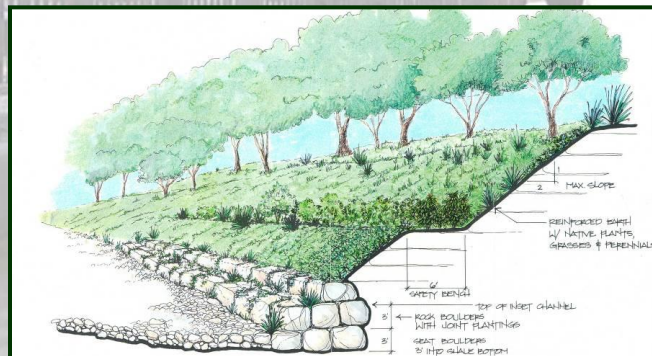
Graded Slopes Planted with Native Vegetation



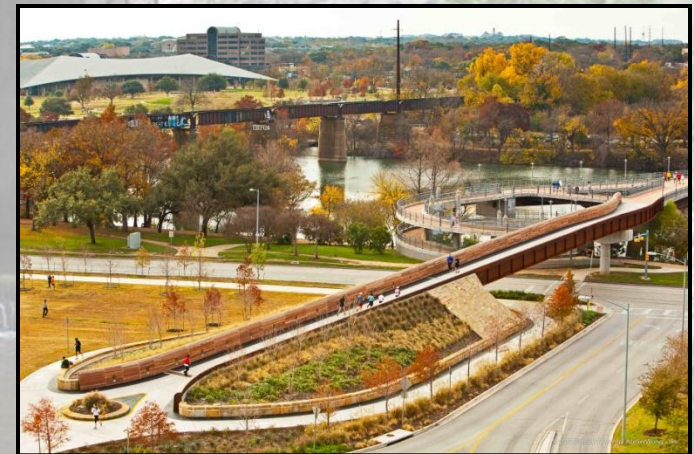
Ft. Branch Creek, Austin



Bioengineered Reinforced Earth Systems



Blunn Creek, Austin



MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Waller Creek District Improvements

Four Categories of Improvement Projects



Recommended Concepts:

- Extend Sabine Street between Palm Park and Cesar Chavez.
- Extend Rainey Street one block northward to Cesar Chavez.

Rationale:

- Improve connectivity between the Waller Creek District and the Rainey Street District – for automobiles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Design:

- To be determined upon completion of “Design Waller Creek” design competition.

STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Waller Creek District Improvements

Four Categories of Improvement Projects



Sabine between 5th and 6th Streets-existing.



Recommended Concepts:

- Pedestrian- and bicycle-oriented streetscape improvements along Sabine Street between 3rd and 7th Streets (while preserving automobile access).

Rationale:

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity within the Waller Creek District.
- Provide framework for future development.

How do these projects fulfill the bond development guiding principles?

Infrastructure -- Provide for adequate infrastructure and facilities to maintain City services.

- The projects will return Waller Creek to a more natural state and function.
- The creekside improvements will repair existing erosion and protect against future erosion.
- Existing utilities in the creek corridor will be repaired, upgraded, or relocated as necessary.
- Creekside improvements will provide water quality and stormwater management benefits.

How do these projects fulfill the bond development guiding principles?

New Initiatives -- Support new investments reflecting the values and priorities that the City has identified in Imagine Austin and related plans.

- Supports Imagine Austin and the Downtown Austin Plan:
 - Promotes a compact and connected city through investment in Downtown.
 - Integrates nature into the city by restoring the natural character of Waller Creek.
 - Promotes a healthy Austin by extending trail facilities and providing options for outdoor activity.
 - Provides improved connections between Waller Creek District and East Austin, Rainey Street District, Capitol Complex, and University of Texas

How do these projects fulfill the bond development guiding principles?

Mobility -- Make investments in new mobility capacity.

- Roadway, trail, sidewalk, and streetscape improvements will increase connectivity and improve circulation of automobiles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

How do these projects fulfill the bond development guiding principles?

Sustainability – Promote a sustainable community and high quality of life.

- Roadway and pathway improvements provide new facilities for walking and bicycling.
- Restores ecosystems and connects people to nature.
- Establishes a framework for economic development.
- Provides a variety of public places for a diverse community.
- Supports the preservation of Austin's historic and natural character.

How do these projects fulfill the bond development guiding principles?

Cost effectiveness – Identify projects that are cost effective, leverage other funding sources, and maximize the benefit of capital investments.

- Helps maximize the benefits of the flood control capital improvements.
- City investments further public-private partnership and leverage non-profit and private funding sources.
- Flood control and creek improvements create environment for private redevelopment.

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Questions/Discussion